

HER INFATUATION LED TO HER DEATH.

Minnie Edson Found Dying
of Asphyxiation at A.
C. Rahe's Home.

She Was Seventeen Years Old
and Fell Deeply in Love
with a Married Man.

He Was Superintendent of the Gould
Match Factory at Passaic, She
His Star Worker.

HIS YOUNG WIFE WAS OUT OF TOWN.

The Pretty Victim Belonged to the Presby-
terian Church and Wore the Badge
of the Christian Endeavor
Society.

Almost in sight of the ancient Van
Wagoner manse at Passaic, N. J., there
fluttered yesterday afternoon three strips
of white crape at the doorpost of a mod-
est two-story cottage. It told the world
that Minnie Edson, the prettiest girl in
all that country, was lying dead in her
own little room on the second floor.

The fluttering told of her death, but it
did not tell how or where she died, and
her sister, under whose roof she lay a
corpse, would only say: "We do not know;
we have only the news brought to us by
the doctors and county officers."

The corpse of this seventeen-year-old
girl had been brought back in the early
afternoon with the news that she had been
found dead in the house of Andrew C.
Rahe, a well-known man of the town,
where she had been killed the night be-
fore by escaping fumes from a gas stove.

SYMPATHY FOR THE GIRL.
The story of the girl's death was so
tragical and contained such a strange mix-
ture of infatuation and atonement that
the voice of censure was hushed and
only that of sorrow and pity was raised.

The story simply told is that Minnie
Edson a year ago, then only sixteen years
old, left her father's house to make her
home with her married sister, Mrs. Con-
klin, who lives in the suburb of Walling-
ton. She got work at the Continental
Match Factory, in which Edwin Gould
owns the controlling stock, and soon be-
came the most skillful worker of the
200 girls employed there in the different
departments.

Minnie Edson's father lives at Newburg,
N. Y., where he is superintendent of the
big Harrison Silk Mill. He has a large
family, owns his own pretty home, and is
prosperous and well-to-do. Minnie was am-
bitious to make her own way, and as she
was to live with her sister, there was no
anxiety about her.

Indeed, apparently there was no need for
anxiety, for soon after her arrival in Passaic
she joined the Presbyterian Church, took
an active interest in the Sabbath school,
and became one of the chief workers in the
Christian Endeavor Society.

UNDER THE EYE OF RAHE.
At the match factory she was under the
eye of Andrew C. Rahe, the superintendent
and head machinist. He is a fine-looking
man, tall, strong and of pleasant address.
He liked the girl from the first day, pro-
moted her rapidly on account of her quick-
ness and eagerness to learn, and, of course,
was attracted, as every one was, by her
bright, intellectual face and uniform vivac-
ity and overflowing good nature.

With the impulsiveness of extreme youth
and inexperience, the girl was attracted to
him with even greater power than he was
to her, and they soon became the closest
friends. She did not know at first that he
had a young wife at his pretty cottage in
Irving place, and when at last she did
know she could not bring herself to deprive
herself of his smiles.

Even her bringing up in the strict Dutch
school of her family, her religious training
and her religious work told far too little
when the great love she bore this man
was weighed in the balance.

A MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION.
Then came an awful explosion at the
match factory. The man she adored was
taken out for dead, and for many weeks he
lay hovering between life and death. As
the bulletins from the hospital came in,
day by day, a big lump stuck in her throat,
and she prayed that he might live. At
last there came word that the tide had
turned in his favor, and that he would
live. Then she was happy.

But it was many long weeks before he
came back, and meantime, doubt had been
raised if he would ever again be superin-
tending. The company was never able to
understand the explosion. There was talk
of a new match company, with newer pa-
tents, and it soon came out that Rahe was
out of favor with the stockholders.

After all this trouble came upon the ob-
ject of her affection, the girl clung to him
closer than ever.

Work being slack at the factory, the girl
had been stopping at home with her sister
for the last few weeks. A few days ago
her brother-in-law's father, Harmon Con-
klin, died at his home in Pompton, N. J.,
and the family went at once, leaving her
alone at home.

Wednesday she met Rahe on the street.
A MEETING ON THE STREET.
She had not seen him for quite a time, but
knew his wife was visiting her parents at
York, Pa., and that he had been packing
the furniture at his home, preparatory to
moving away. It had been the talk of the
town that he had organized a new match
company, with local capital, and that a
man named Dismore, who formerly
worked at the Gould factory, had patented
machinery which would revolutionize the
match industry.

"She knew that Rahe was the promoter,
and that the new business would take him
to Acton, N. J., far away from Passaic,
and still further away from Newburg. She
had about given up hope of making a living
in the Gould works, for the wages of late
had been very low. So this meeting looked
like a last one. Rahe proposed taking her
to a theatre in New York, but she would
not go."

FIXING THE GAS STOVE.
After a long argument she finally con-
sented to meet him at his home Thursday
evening. He returned earlier than usual
Thursday afternoon from New York, and
as the stove had been down for some days,
forcing him to lodge at the hotels, he
carried under his arm, wrapped in a
newspaper, a small cylinder gas stove.

He went to the house and began to fix
the stove in the small hall bedroom fac-
ing the street, where he slept, and the
only completely furnished room in the



Characters and Scenes Connected with the Passaic Tragedy.

Miss Minnie Edson, a handsome seventeen-year-old girl, who lived with her sister, Mrs. Conklin, was asphyxiated while asleep at the home of A. C. Rahe, with whom she was infatuated. He was overcome himself, but recovered sufficiently to summon a physician. Rahe was arrested and held by the County Physician on a minor charge in \$200 bonds, which he furnished.

house. He had two pieces of rubber pipe,
but had to join them, as neither was
long enough to reach from the stove to
the gas jet. His mechanical skill sug-
gested an iron pipe coupling. He had a
bit of gas pipe, and fitted the tubing to
either end, tying the joints with a bit of
string. Then he found the water pipes
had been frozen, and went into the ad-
joining house to get some to drink.

So he bustled himself till 7 p. m., when
Minnie Edson tripped up the steps in the
dark. She was met at the door. She left
her hat and coat on the hall rack, and
there they hung yesterday. In the pocket
of the coat was a small bag of candy, a
few trinkets and her purse, containing \$13.
She ascended to the only warm room in the
house, where the gas stove was, and there
they talked in confidence of his plans and
her lonely outlook.

THE AWAKENING.
At 11 o'clock Rahe remembers to have
fallen with a great jar from the bed to the
floor. He knew nothing for a long time,
and then he felt the deadly stupor of as-
phyxiation wearing away, and realized
that something was wrong. Struggling to
his feet, he staggered to the one little
window of the room, threw it wide open
and dropped into a chair.

At last, as the nipping air purified his
lungs, he remembered the girl. He reeled
back to the bed, and there she lay, peace-
ful and smiling; but she had ceased to
breathe, though her hand was yet warm.
Without hat or coat, reeling as he went,
and hanging on to the fence to steady him-
self, Rahe found his way to the home of
Dr. Rice, No. 79 Bloomfield avenue. He
tugged with all his strength at the bell,
and at last the physician came downstairs,
heard the story as they ran back over the
frosty pavement, and in a very few min-
utes, they were in the room.

Before going for the doctor, Rahe had
seated the girl in the chair beside the open
window, and there she was found, her soft,
brown eyes staring vacantly at them as
they entered.

A STRUGGLE AGAINST HOPE.
For two hours Dr. Rice worked over the
girl, for when he had first put his hand
to her heart he had felt a faint flutter of
life. Rahe helped with the feverish energy
of despair, and when the doctor told him
all was over he threw himself down be-
side the body, giving himself up to his
grief.

Dr. Rice aroused him to say that though
it was all over with the poor girl he had to
defend himself before the law, and had
best look to that right away. Rahe asked
the physician's advice, and was promptly
told to conceal nothing, and to tell every
fact as he knew it to have occurred.

On the doctor's advice Rahe went to
Undertaker Jacobus, No. 20 Irving place.
Jacobus took charge of the body, but
warned Rahe he could not remove it from
the house without an order from the Coun-
ty Physician, Dr. Walter B. Johnson, of
Paterson. A telegram was sent to him to
take charge of the case, and then Rahe

asked what he should do with himself.
He was advised to go to a hotel and get
some sleep, and to deliver himself at Pol-
ice Headquarters in the morning.

SEEKING A HOTEL.
Rahe went to the Passaic County House,
F. Whitehead proprietor, where he had
stayed over night on February 1 and Feb-
ruary 8, but could not make anybody
hear, as the hotel closes after 1 a. m.
Then he went to the City Hotel, got a
room, and lay on the bed till breakfast
time, still ill from the effects of the
gas, and wishing he was dead.

He walked into the police station early
enough to meet Chief Hendry, who had been
notified by the undertaker, and surrendered
himself, making a full statement of all that
had occurred. The chief held him pending
action by the County Physician.

Dr. Johnson arrived from Paterson at 9
A. M., and at once went to the house with
the Chief of Police and the undertaker.
They made a careful examination of the
body, and everything tended to bear out
the statement of Rahe. The corpse was
taken to the undertaking place of a man
named Fogarty, who works with Jacobus,
and was there prepared for burial.

SYMPATHY FOR RAHE.
Dr. Johnson said later in the day: "This
poor girl had the most perfectly developed
form for her years I have ever known.
Everything about her indicated refinement,
education and culture. It is a great pity
her infatuation led her to such an end."
He was full of sympathy for the unfor-
tunate Rahe, and did not think he should be
held, except for the technical crime recog-
nized by the New Jersey courts, and pun-
ished on conviction by six months' impris-
onment or a fine of \$100.

HELD IN \$200 BAIL.
The hearing took place before Police Jus-
tice John H. Boker at 2 p. m. When Rahe
had told his story and Dr. Rice had given
his testimony it was quickly decided by the
Magistrate and the County Physician that
there was not the slightest evidence of
homicide.

Rahe walked up and down the court room
in an agony of despair. Among the specta-
tors was young Conklin, who had just
heard of his sister-in-law's death. He
stood near the prisoner, white of face, but
perfectly calm, and did not attempt to in-
terfere or say a word to Rahe.

Some of Rahe's friends tried to console
him, but he brushed them aside and al-
ways made reply: "Whatever is done, it
will not bring the poor girl back to life."
Rahe's friends arranged to get counsel
for him, and engaged one of the brightest
lawyers of the town, Edward C. Moore.

Dr. Rice went on his bond. The usual fine
imposed in Passaic is \$10, but this being
an extraordinary case Justice Boker made
the bond twice the amount of the highest
the law allows him to impose. The
Coroner was not called in the case, as the
County Physician has the legal right to de-
cide as to the necessity of such a course.
While the hearing was going on Under-

taker Jacobus was taking the body to the
sister's home in Wallington. It was laid
out in the dead girl's little room, which
is hung about with pretty pictures and decked
out with trinkets and keepsakes. While
the last afternoon sunbeams came strug-
gling in at the windows the family met
about her bier and mourned her with
deeper sorrow than is given for those
who work and die by the rule of the
stricter life.

SORROW AT THE SISTER'S HOUSE.
After giving a chattel mortgage on his
furniture to secure his bondsmen, Rahe
said:

"This is the culmination of all the bad
luck I have had since I came to Passaic,
fourteen months ago. I was coaxed here
with the promise of being made superin-
tendent. Then came another man to get
the place. I came near being burned to
death in an explosion, and now I have dis-
graced myself and my family for all time."

MRS. RAHE THINKS IT STAYS WORK.
New York, Feb. 14.—Mrs. A. C. Rahe
was seen to-night at the residence of
her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Swartz,
and when informed of the story from
New York regarding the death of a girl
in their husband's house, was severely
shocked. She admitted that her husband
was formerly employed at a match fac-
tory in Passaic, but he recently severed
his connection therewith and removed to
New York, where he is stopping with a
relative. She says he is now employed
by a match factory in that city. Mrs.
Rahe insists that the matter is all spite
work, and that it is a scheme of some
one to injure her husband.

HER PARENTS ARE WEALTHY.
Newburgh, N. Y., Feb. 14.—Minnie Ed-
son is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
Thomas Edson, who live at No. 67 Carter
street, this city. Edson is not a wealthy
silk manufacturer. He is a boss in the
weaving room of James Harrison's silk
mill at West Newburgh, and came here
with his wife, son and daughter in July
last. Previous to that they lived at Pas-
saic, N. J.

A few days ago Mrs. Conklin, a sister,
with whom she lived, came here on a
visit to her parents, and was here when
word was received to-day of the death of
Miss Edson. The entire family left for
Passaic at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Cannot Telephone X Rays.
Thomas A. Edison announced last night that
within twenty-four hours he expected to have
completed and perfected tubes with which he
will be able to make snap shot photographs
through any substance of medium thickness, ex-
cept steel or iron.

A chemist worked with Mr. Edison all day
and night Thursday, endeavoring to manufacture plat-
inum-bar cyanide. This chemical is made abroad
and is very costly. It is said that it becomes
fluorescent when exposed to the X rays.

Mr. Edison succeeded yesterday in getting
clearly defined images of strips of various metals
on a sensitized plate, the rays penetrating a
heavy piece of cardboard and a vulcanized plate-
holder in seven seconds.
An effort was also made to send the rays over
a telephone wire, but it was unsuccessful.

GOMEZ AND MACEO STILL MYSTERIES.

Cubans Dream of a Despe-
rate and Aggressive At-
tack on Havana.

Generals Who Are Rivals to
Weyler for High Places Are
Going Back to Spain.

Stories of Atrocities by the Spanish
Troops Circulated by the Insur-
gents but Not Authenticated.

ENEMIES BURIED IN ONE TRENCH.

After the Battle Near San Lorenzo River
Vidal's Men Gathered the Dead and
Laid Them All in One
Big Grave.

By Thurat Halstead.
Havana, Feb. 14 (via Key West).—In the
midst of so much excitement and arbitrary
restraint rumors run wild, and the Cuban
imagination is very vivid. Cubans have
now much for their fancy to paint.

It is strange that Gomez lingers so long
near Havana.

The Cuban story is that he has from 10,000
to 15,000 men and Maceo 5,000, and that
5,000 reinforcements are coming from the
east. Perhaps it is possible for them to
concentrate 20,000 men. They have no ar-
tillery, but superior cavalry. The further
theory is that cartridges enough have been
saved for a big day's work, and that Gomez
means to change from his furtive defensive
to the desperately aggressive, and fight
with his whole force for Havana.

This may be a Cuban dream, but there is
a real crisis coming.
The situation of these leaders is in-
comprehensible. Within a day's march of
Havana they have hovered for a month.
Maceo has gone to the extreme west of
the island, recruiting and establishing the
insurgent Government in the cities. He
has been a constant retreat with most of
the features of a triumphal march. All
the time the Spaniards have hung on to
his flanks, forcing a fight now and again,
but never getting a battle really worthy
of the name.

Now Maceo is comparatively close to Ha-
vana on the west side, and Gomez is still
closer to the southeast.

Thousands and thousands of Spanish
troops are about, but these ten or twelve
thousand rebels cannot be driven away.
The recruits enrolled when the rebels
came west were sent back east to be
drilled and familiarized in this sort of war-
fare. Now they are on their way back and,
I am told, number five thousand.

This is the situation. Weyler is facing a
war that has been on for a year, and during
that time the Spaniards—naturally the ag-
gressors—have not been able to inflict one
severe reverse. Gomez, I am told, proposes
to unite with Maceo and the five thousand

reinforcements, and with a solid, well-
armed force of twenty thousand, meet the
worst Weyler can do.

There is still cherished in Cuban breasts
the hope that the use of that fine army of
20,000 will be against Havana, but it
seems hardly possible, in spite of the maps
which Cuban sympathizers are never tired
of drawing.

CUBANS ARE FRIGHTENED.

Weyler, though his talk so far has been
all straightforward and soldierly, has in-
spired the utmost fear among Cubans, yet
his talk to the Consul corps, denying the
charges of cruelty and declaring his willing-
ness to meet them half way in event of any
complication, was the reverse of savage.

The talk is that those generals who have
jostled against Weyler in the race for high
place in the Spanish Army will not be ac-
ceptable here. General Canellas, one of
the best, has already announced that he
is going home. The Censor added to this
announcement, "on account of a death in
the family."

The first story told about it was that
he was sent home because he had executed
seventeen prisoners at Candelaria after his
recent battle with Maceo. I don't believe
a word of it. Canellas is a fighter, but
has never been reputed as that sort of
savage. The real truth, I am credi-
tably informed, is that he and Weyler
have been the reverse of friends since a
rupture during the war in the Philippine
Islands, and that Weyler criticised his
action in not following up Maceo when
Canellas called on him and in such fash-
ion that no other course was left for
Canellas.

WEYLER HIS OWN CENSOR.

General Weyler does not propose to have
any newspaper correspondents in incon-
venient places, and moreover he does not in-
tend to trust any censor but himself.
Yesterday not only did he order all permis-
sion given to correspondents to go with the
troops cancelled, but he notified the cor-
respondents and local newspapers that at
9 a. m. and 9 p. m. his immediate staff
would give out the war news; that no
other news should be cabled, and if a cor-
respondent came into possession of any
other facts he must withhold them until
officially confirmed at the regular levee.

Now we are wondering what means Gen-
eral Weyler will take to head off despatches
sent "via Key West," because so long as
steamers run every one will bear a harvest
of news, larger in proportion to the seri-
osity of the censorship here. This new order
will be harder on the local press than on
the foreign. Their correspondents in the
field, deprived of authorization, are all
coming home. The local papers cannot now
publish even a Spanish victory until the
news has been officially given out. Even
the Madrid correspondents rave to use
Key West to dodge the censorship. There
are rather good reasons for this severity if
the news that has recently reached me
from the East be true. It comes from the
insurgent leaders Vidal and Roloff—not di-
rectly, of course, as a correspondent who
published over his own signature that he
had direct communication with the rebels
would have to leave the island, even if
worse did not befall him.

THE ROENTGEN CRAZE ON THE CONTINENT.

Some Startling Experiments
and Operations in Paris
and Birmingham.

A Needle Revealed in a Wo-
man's Hand and Success-
fully Extracted.

Muscles Exposed on the Thigh of
a Patient Who Suffers
from Atrophy.

DR. SELLE BEFORE KAISER WILHELM.

The Inventor of Perfected Colored Pho-
tography Exhibits Specimens of His
Work in the Schloss, but Declines
to Explain His Invention.

By Julian Ralph.

London, February 14.—Many of the Con-
tinental papers contain new tidings of ex-
periments with the Roentgen photograph
from many sources. For instance, at a
recent meeting of the Paris Academy of
Science, a lecturer showed two photo-
graphs of a woman, one through the
muscles of the thigh of the patient, who
was suffering from atrophy, caused by
tuberculosis. The condition was fully re-
vealed, as also in the case of a photograph
of the bones of the same woman's kno-
showing inflammation of the joints.

The Spanish press announces that all
Spain is aroused by the scientists who are
conducting experiments on original lines.

From Germany comes the news that
Roentgen is about to publish a pamphlet,
for which the whole scientific world is on
the qui vive.

From all over Europe news comes of
photographs of hands and feet, in which
the discovery of bits of copper, wire, needles
and the like is of common occurrence.

A needle was revealed in a woman's hand
in Birmingham to-day and successfully ex-
tracted.

In London an effort is being made to form
a society for the purpose of making serious
experiments with the new photography.

From Berlin comes word that Dr. Selle, of
Brandenburg, has been received by the Em-
peror and the Empress, to whom he exhib-
ited specimens of his work in photograph-
ing in colors.

He declines to explain his method and
only shows the results of his lifetime's re-
searches, but it is understood that the system
is based on the theory of Helmholtz, that
with red, yellow and blue films, placed in
the right order in a camera, violet and all
other colors can be produced, as was ex-
plained in an exhaustive dispatch in the
Journal not long ago.

HOW JORGEN ASTRUP DIED.

Harrowing Details of the Sad Fate of an
Intrepid Arctic Explorer.

Jorgen Astrup, of Brooklyn, furnishes
the following details of the recent death
of his brother, Eivind Astrup, the Arctic
explorer:

"His dead body was found on January
21, only twenty-five minutes' walk from
Jerkyn, the place he left on December 27
to go to a farm near Lake Alva. He had
a bad cut in the temple, having fallen and
hit his head against a sharp rock. He had
tried to stop the flow of blood by tying a
silk scarf around his wounded head and
pressing a handkerchief under his cap.

He had not succeeded, however, as his
dress was soaked with blood. After the
accident he tried to return to Jerkyn and
reached to within three-quarters of a mile
of that place. He sat down in the shelter
of a big rock and soon after fainted from
loss of blood, and as the weather was
about zero, never woke again.

The provisions he carried were almost
untouched. There has been very little snow
this year in the mountains. He could not
use his skis, but had been carrying them on
his shoulders. Walking, thus, his feet slipped,
and, having his hands occupied, his head
fell with full force against the sharp
edge of a stone.

His body was placed in a coffin at El-
devall Railway Station. He had friends
everywhere, and when the train stopped
kind hands laid flowers and wreaths upon
his coffin, so that before it reached Chris-
tiania it was beautifully decorated. The
doctor says he could not have lived long
after the accident. He was buried on Janu-
ary 27 in Trinity Church Cemetery."

TRIED IN VAIN TO ESCAPE.

Mrs. Isabella Burns Held on to Her Pretty
Young Sister Until a Police-
man Appeared.

The attempt of an exceedingly pretty
young woman to escape from an older
woman last night attracted the attention
of a policeman of the West One Hundred
and Twenty-fifth Street Station at One
Hundred and Forty-first street and Am-
sterdam avenue. The older woman, who
proved to be Mrs. Isabella Burns, of No.
72 East One Hundred and Fourteenth
street, and a sister of the younger one,
who was Miss Clara Everett, twenty-seven
years old, of No. 253 West One Hundred
and Forty-fourth street, explained that
Miss Everett was ill and that she was
trying to take her home.

Miss Everett in the meantime was scream-
ing at the top of her voice, and this
caused a large crowd to collect. The po-
liceman telephoned to the Manhattan Hos-
pital for an ambulance, but finding that
the only one of that institution was not
obtainable, he sent to the Harlem Hos-
pital. The young woman was conveyed
there and an examination by Dr. Garvey
disclosed the fact that she was suffering
from the effect of a large dose of some
drug.

Miss Everett is a trained nurse, but has
been out of work for some time. Mrs.
Burns denied that her sister had taken
any drug, but could not explain the cause
of her condition.

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